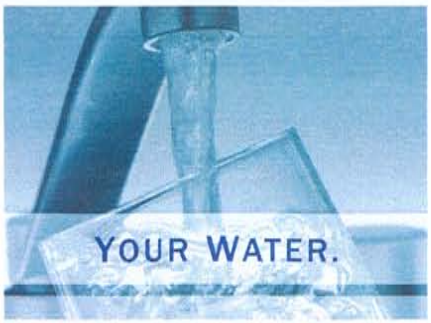


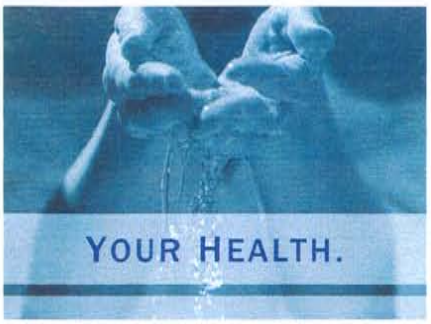



# STRAIGHT Talk Your Consumer Confidence Report

By July 1 each year, every drinking water utility issues a water quality report to the community. Often referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report, this document provides each of us with information on our source water, levels of any detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water rules. Most water systems deliver their Consumer Confidence Report via U.S. Mail. Many also make their reports available on the Internet.

- There's a lot of information in Consumer Confidence reports. The bottom line is that your water meets all regulations unless a violation is reported. Many reports also contain helpful educational material on water quality issues.
- The format and appearance of Consumer Confidence reports differs among water suppliers. However, each report contains measurements of the constituents in the water, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's maximum contaminant level (MCL) for these constituents. If the level of a substance is higher than the MCL, it represents a violation.
- If a violation has occurred, the report will include information of the possible health effects that may be associated with that contaminant. Call your water utility or your State regulatory agency if you have additional questions about a reported violation.
- For some substances – lead for example – instead of an MCL, the report lists a "treatment technique." This means that in some circumstances EPA may require a utility to employ a particular treatment method to minimize the occurrence of the unwanted substance.
- If you do not see test results for a substance that interests you, contact your water utility and request the information.
- The measurements listed in Consumer Confidence reports are unfamiliar to many people. Contaminants and minerals found in the water are usually measured in mg/L (milligrams per liter) or ppm (parts per million), which are extremely small amounts. You may also see µg/L (micrograms per liter) or ppb (parts per billion), which are the same measurement and 1,000 times smaller that mg/L or ppm.
- Your Consumer Confidence Report also includes a brief section regarding substances that may be in drinking water, including bottled water, but that don't represent a health concern for consumers.

Note: To view your local water system's most recent report, please visit:

www.awwa.org/yourwater Follow the Ask Your Local Utility link to locate your specific water supplier.

American Water Works Association

6666 West Quincy Avenue
Denver, CO 80235-3098
www.awwa.org
303.734.3410

The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water℠

# 2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

**CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS**

*Phone No:* **(210) 826 – 0516 // 826 - 4225**

***Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:***

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Public Participation Opportunities

**Date:** **City Council meetings, 2nd & 4th Mondays**

**Time:** **5:30 p.m.**

**Location:** **6120 Broadway (Council Chambers)**

**Phone No:** **(210) 822 – 3331**

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.

## Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

WATER SOURCES: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

*En Español*

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. **(210) 822 – 3331** - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

## Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from Ground water sources. It comes from the following Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer: EDWARDS SOUTH BFZ. TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. If we receive or purchase water from another system, their susceptibility is not included in this assessment. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

## *ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.*

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

## About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

### DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**
The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**
The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)**
The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Treatment Technique (TT)**
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Action Level (AL)**
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

### ABBREVIATIONS

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Units
**MFL** - million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
**pCi/L** - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
**ppm** - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
**ppb** - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
**ppt** - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
**ppq** - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**Inorganic Contaminants**

| Year (Range) | Contaminant | Average Level | Minimum Level | Maximum Level | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 2002 | Barium | 0.042 | 0.0422 | 0.0429 | 2 | 2 | ppm | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2002 2002 | Chromium | 3.660 | 3.56 | 3.71 | 100 | 100 | ppb | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2002 2002 | Fluoride | 0.154 | 0.153 | 0.155 | 4 | 4 | ppm | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| 2004 2004 | Nitrate | 1.770 | 1.75 | 1.79 | 10 | 10 | ppm | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2002 2002 | Gross alpha | 0.217 | 0 | 1.3 | 15 | 0 | pCi/L | Erosion of natural deposits. |

**Organic Contaminants** NOT TESTED OR REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** NOT TESTED OR REPORTED

Systems must complete and submit disinfection data on the Disinfection Level Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR). Failure to do so WILL result in violation(s).

**Disinfection Byproducts**

| Year (Range) | Contaminant | Average Level | Minimum Level | Maximum Level | MCL | Unit of Measure | Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 2004 | Total Haloacetic Acids | 0.050 | 0 | 1.2 | 60 | ppb | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2004 2004 | Total Trihalomethanes | 0.958 | 0 | 4.1 | 80 | ppb | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |

**Unregulated Contaminants** NOT TESTED OR REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

**Lead and Copper**

| Year (Range) | Contaminant | The 90th Percentile | Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level | Action Level | Unit of Measure | Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 2002 | Lead | 2.3000 | 1 | 15 | ppb | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2002 2002 | Copper | 0.0970 | 0 | 1.3 | ppm | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |

**Turbidity** NOT REQUIRED

**Total Coliform** NOT DETECTED

**Fecal Coliform** NOT DETECTED

**Secondary and Other Not Regulated Constituents**
(No associated adverse health effects)

| Year (Range) | Constituent | Average Level | Minimum Level | Maximum Level | Limit | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 2002 | Bicarbonate | 205.333 | 205 | 206 | NA | ppm | Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone. |
| 2002 2002 | Calcium | 67.933 | 67.9 | 68 | NA | ppm | Abundant naturally occurring element. |
| 1999 1999 | Chloride | 19.833 | 19 | 20 | 300 | ppm | Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity |
| 2002 2002 | Copper | 0.007 | 0.00467 | 0.0112 | NA | ppm | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |
| 2002 2002 | Hardness as Ca/Mg | 232.000 | 232 | 232 | NA | ppm | Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium. |
| 2002 2002 | Lead | 0.900 | 0 | 2.7 | NA | ppb | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2002 2002 | Magnesium | 15.200 | 15.2 | 15.2 | NA | ppm | Abundant naturally occurring element. |
| 2002 2002 | pH | 7.730 | 7.59 | 7.8 | NA | units | Measure of corrosivity of water. |
| 2002 2002 | Sodium | 9.207 | 9.19 | 9.24 | NA | ppm | Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity. |
| 2002 2002 | Sulfate | 19.333 | 19.3 | 19.4 | 300 | ppm | Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity. |
| 2002 2002 | Total Alkalinity as CaCO3 | 205.333 | 205 | 206 | NA | ppm | Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts. |
| 2002 2002 | Total Dissolved Solids | 253.667 | 253 | 254 | 1000 | ppm | Total dissolved mineral constituents in water. |
| 1999 1999 | Total Hardness as CaCO3 | 243.833 | 243 | 248 | NA | ppm | Naturally occurring calcium. |
| 2002 2002 | Zinc | 32.573 | 4.66 | 88.4 | 5000 | ppb | Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry. |

**Should you have any questions or concerns, please call the Public Works Department, (210) 826-0516.**